IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) In combination:~~A bracket for use in coupling~~ a new building panel;~~ to~~ a structure, having at least one existing building panel with an outwardly facing surface that is shaped to have a profile defined by elongated, alternating peaks and valleys, and at least one existing fastener~~,~~;~~ and~~ a~~the~~ bracket comprising:

forward and rearward spaced-apart wall members having upper and lower end portions, opposite end portions and a length extending between said opposite end portions; said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall members being shaped and sized to marry the profile of the alternating peaks and valleys along the outwardly facing surface of the existing building panel when~~said brace~~ the bracket is positioned closely adjacent, and ~~generally~~ the length of said bracket is perpendicular to, lengths of the elongated alternating peaks and valleys of the existing building panel; and

a top wall member extending between and operatively coupling the upper end portions of said forward and rearward wall members;

said forward, rearward and top wall members being coupled to one another so that they define a channel that extends at least partially along the length of the bracket; said channel being sized and shaped to ~~substantially~~ enclose the at least one existing fastener.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward and rearward wall members are spaced in a ~~substantially~~ parallel relationship with one another.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward, rearward and top wall members are comprised of an ~~substantially~~ insulative material.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said channel is shaped and sized to ~~substantially and~~ simultaneously enclose a plurality of existing fasteners that are arranged in a ~~generally~~ linear relationship with one another.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) In combination:

a new building panel;

a structure, having at least one existing building panel with an outwardly facing surface that is shaped to have a profile defined by elongated, alternating peaks and valleys, and at least one existing fastener; and

a bracket comprising:

forward and rearward spaced-apart wall members having upper and lower end portions, opposite end portions and a length extending between said opposite end portions; said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall members being shaped and sized to marry the profile of the alternating peaks and valleys along the outwardly facing surface of the existing building panel when the bracket is positioned closely adjacent, and perpendicular to, the alternating peaks and valleys of the existing building panel; and

a top wall member extending between and operatively coupling the upper end portions of said forward and rearward wall members;

said forward, rearward and top wall members being coupled to one another so that they define a channel that extends at least partially along the length of the bracket; said channel being ~~The bracket of claim 1 wherein said channel is~~ shaped and sized to ~~substantially~~ enclose and engage the at least one existing fastener in a manner that ~~substantially~~ prevents said bracket from moving in a ~~generally~~ parallel fashion with respect to the at least one existing building panel.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein the lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall portions are shaped so that a ~~substantial~~ portion of the lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall portions engage the outwardly facing surface of the at least one existing building panel.

Claim 9 (Original) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said forward, rearward and top wall members are positioned with respect to one another to provide the bracket with a generally U-shaped cross-section.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A method of retrofitting at least one new building panel and at least one new fastener to a structure having at least one existing building panel, with an outwardly facing surface that is shaped to have a profile defined by

elongated, alternating peaks and valleys, which is secured to a frame member with at least one existing fastener, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one bracket comprising forward and rearward spaced-apart wall members, having upper and lower end portions, coupled to one another by a top wall member; and

providing said at least one bracket with a channel, defined by said forward, rearward and top wall members, which extends at least partially along a length of said at least one bracket and is sized and shaped to ~~substantially~~ enclose said at least one existing fastener;

providing said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall members with a shape that will marry the profile of the alternating peaks and valleys along the outwardly facing surface of the existing building panel when said brace is positioned closely adjacent, and ~~generally~~ perpendicular to, the alternating peaks and valleys of the at least one existing building panel;

aligning said at least one bracket so that the length of said at least one bracket is positioned perpendicular to lengths of said elongated, alternating peaks and valleys, the profile of said bracket is married to the profile of the at least one existing building panel, and the at least one existing fastener is ~~substantially~~ enclosed within said channel;

positioning the at least one new building panel on the top wall member of said at least one bracket;

securing the at least one new building panel to said bracket and the frame member with the at least one new fastener.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of forming said bracket from an ~~substantially~~ insulative material.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said forward and rearward wall members are positioned in a ~~substantially~~ parallel relationship with one another.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of disposing a layer of insulative material between the at least one existing building panel and the at least one new building panel.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 10 wherein~~ A method of retrofitting at least one new building panel and at least one new fastener to a structure having at least one existing building panel, with an outwardly facing surface that is shaped to have a profile defined by elongated, alternating peaks and valleys, which is secured to a frame member with a plurality of existing fasteners, which are linearly arranged with respect to one another, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one bracket comprising forward and rearward spaced-apart wall members, having upper and lower end portions, coupled to one another by a top wall member; and

providing said at least one bracket with a channel, defined by said forward, rearward and top wall members, which extends at least partially along a length of said at

least one bracket and is sized and shaped to enclose said plurality of existing fasteners;

providing said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall members with a shape that will marry the profile of the alternating peaks and valleys along the outwardly facing surface of the existing building panel when said brace is positioned closely adjacent, and generally perpendicular to, the alternating peaks and valleys of the at least one existing building panel;

aligning said at least one bracket so that the profile of said bracket is married to the profile of the at least one existing building panel and the plurality of existing fasteners are enclosed within said channel and engage said bracket in a manner that prevents movement of said bracket along the lengths of the elongated, alternating peaks and valleys of the at least one existing building panel.;

positioning the at least one new building panel on the top wall member of said at least one bracket;

securing the at least one new building panel to said bracket and the frame member with the at least one new fastener.

Claim 16 (Original) ~~The method of claim 10 wherein the~~ A method of retrofitting at least one new building panel and at least one new fastener to a structure having at least one existing building panel, with an outwardly facing surface that is shaped to have a profile defined by elongated, alternating peaks and valleys, which is secured to a frame member with at least one existing fastener, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one bracket comprising forward and rearward spaced-apart wall members, having upper and lower end portions, coupled to one another by a top wall member; and

providing said at least one bracket with a channel, defined by said forward, rearward and top wall members, which extends at least partially along a length of said at least one bracket and is sized and shaped to enclose said at least one existing fastener;

providing said lower end portions of said forward and rearward wall members with a shape that will marry the profile of the alternating peaks and valleys along the outwardly facing surface of the existing building panel when said brace is positioned closely adjacent, and perpendicular to, the alternating peaks and valleys of the at least one existing building panel;

aligning said at least one bracket so that the profile of said bracket is married to the profile of the at least one existing building panel and the at least one existing fastener is enclosed within said channel;

positioning the at least one new building panel on the top wall member of said at least one bracket;

securing the at least one new building panel to said bracket and the frame member with the at least one new fastener; said bracket ~~is~~ being coupled to the at least one existing building panel using only the at least one new fastener used to secure the at least one new building panel to said bracket and ~~the~~ said frame member.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said channel is sized and shaped to ~~substantially~~ enclose the at least one existing fastener such that said bracket is ~~substantially~~ prevented from parallel movement with respect to the at least one existing building panel.

Claim 18 (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said bracket is provided with a generally U-shaped cross-section.